

# NATIONAL SECURITY CUTTER



Acquisition  
Directorate

## CHARACTERISTICS

Length:	418 feet
Beam:	54 feet
Draft:	22 feet 6 inches
Displacement:	4,500 long tons
Maximum Speed:	28 knots
Range:	12,000 nautical miles
Endurance:	60- to 90-day patrol cycles



Coast Guard Cutters  
Kimball (WMSL 756) and Midgett (WMSL 757)



## FEATURES

- Automated weapons systems capable of stopping rogue vessels
- Large flight deck and hangar space for multiple manned and unmanned aircraft
- State-of-the-art command and control equipment to support cooperation with other units and agencies
- Detection and defense capabilities against chemical, biological or radiological attack
- Advanced sensors and tactical equipment to contribute intelligence to a common operating picture and provide enhanced maritime domain awareness
- Standardized long range interceptor II (LRI-II) and over the horizon IV (OTH-IV) cutter boats with stern and side davit launch and recovery capabilities

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The national security cutter (NSC) acquisition addresses the Coast Guard's need for open-ocean patrol cutters with the seakeeping, habitability, endurance and technological advancement to serve as command and control centers in the most demanding maritime environments. Each NSC is built to serve as operational-level headquarters for complex law enforcement, defense and national security missions involving Coast Guard and multiple partner agency participation.

The NSCs feature advanced command, control, communication, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance equipment; aviation support facilities; stern cutter boat launch; and long-endurance station keeping. The ships are replacing the 378-foot high endurance cutters, which have been in service since the 1960s.

The NSCs continue to show the value of their capabilities to mission execution. They removed over 29 metric tons of cocaine – valued at \$870 million – and apprehended

108 suspected smugglers in fiscal year 2020. NSCs continue to contribute to the nation's defense – one example is Coast Guard Cutter Stone's support of Department of Defense operations in the South Atlantic in early 2021, which included a focus on countering illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

There are nine Legend-class NSC in service. Coast Guard cutters Hamilton, James and Stone are stationed in Charleston, South Carolina. Coast Guard cutters Bertholf, Woesche, Stratton and Munro are stationed in Alameda, California. Coast Guard cutters Kimball and Midgett are stationed in Honolulu.

On Dec. 21, 2018, the service awarded a fixed-price contract option for the production of the 10th and 11th NSCs. Delivery of the 10th NSC, Calhoun, is scheduled in fiscal year 2023.

Mission execution begins *here*.

For updates on the NSC, visit the program's website at  
<https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Programs/Surface-Programs/National-Security-Cutter/>

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[www.dcms.uscg.mil/acquisition](http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/acquisition)



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# SPECIFICATIONS

## C5ISR SYSTEMS

### Coast Guard SeaCommander

- AN/SPS-79 surface search radar
- AN/SPS-75 air search radar
- Identification friend or foe transponder
- Electro-optical/infrared sensor system
- Automatic Identification System
- AN/SLQ-32 electronic warfare suite
- Tactical Data Link (CDLMS)
- Navigation Distribution System (NAVSSI)

### Communications

- Communications Management System (Symphony)
- MILSATCOM
- COMSATCOM
- Line of Sight (LOS)

## HULL, MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

### Propulsion System:

- Two MTU 20V 1163 marine diesel engines
- One General Electric LM2500 main gas turbine

### Electrical System:

- Three Caterpillar 3512B ship's service diesel generators

### Weapons Systems

- One Mk 160 gun fire-control system
- One Mk 110 57-mm naval gun system
- One Phalanx 20-mm close-in weapon system
- Two Mk 53 Nulka decoy launching systems
- Two Mk 36 Super Rapid Blooming Offboard Countermeasures chaff launching systems
- Four .50-caliber machine guns
- Two M240B 7.62-mm machine guns

### Shipboard Collective Protection System

## EXTENDED OPERATIONS

### Aviation:

- Two MH-65 helicopters
- or
- One MH-65 and two unmanned aircraft systems (future capability)

### Cutter Boats:

- Two OTH-IVs
- One LRI-II



Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf (WMSL 750)



Coast Guard Cutter Waesche (WMSL 751)



Coast Guard Cutter Stratton (WMSL 752)



Coast Guard Cutter Hamilton (WMSL 753)



Coast Guard Cutter James (WMSL 754)



Coast Guard Cutter Munro (WMSL 755)